

Continued Devotion

In previous writings we have considered how one can realize their desire to have a relationship with God. Knowing of God and learning about Him comes by giving attention to what He has revealed of Himself. Such knowledge, to an open, seeking heart, will urge one to leave behind the world as he turns attention to God. Declaring belief in God and His Son who died for our sin brings one to the point of full submission. Our last article discussed the need for obedience through immersion in water to put to death the old man and rise a new child of God.

In Acts 2 we see just such action taking place among the many Jews who heard and believed after Peter spoke to them. Luke records some three thousands gave themselves into the service of our Lord. He tells us in a later verse that this was only the beginning of those who submitted as the Lord continued to add those who were being saved.

Baptism Is A Beginning

In Acts 2:42 we find that those who obeyed the urging of Peter to repent and be baptized were “continually devoting” themselves to the teaching from God. The example found here shows an attitude of ongoing service. There was no rest for those who heard the message of Jesus. They wanted to hear more about Jesus and what it meant to be a child in the family of God. As they learned they made changes in their activities. They sought additional opportunities to be with the ones Jesus had left to deliver His Message.

They seemed to understand that obedience was an ongoing requirement. Instead of returning to their previous way of life they sought to learn more about what God expected. They knew that an ongoing relationship with Jesus would require them to keep doing what was pleasing to Him. This feeling of strong loyalty to Jesus became a dominating force in their life.

Giving attention to the teaching from the Apostles helped each of these new disciples learn more about God. The more they learned the closer they would feel and the stronger their faith and trust in Him would become. It is a self-promoting cycle. The more we learn, the closer we feel. The closer we feel, the more we want to understand.

Focused On Learning

Better understanding seemed to be more important than returning home. These early converts were from across the empire. Many had probably been in Judea for almost two months for the Jewish feasts. They stayed even longer because of the unique opportunity to hear the Word of God from the chosen messengers of Jesus.

Devotion to the Word is necessary for the newborn child of God. It is through the Word that we increase our understanding so that we can grow. Just as the Word teaches us who God is, it also teaches us what He wants for us. Feeding on the Word and practicing what we learn will exercise our senses and train us to recognize good and evil. (Hebrews 5:13-14)

Paul told Timothy that diligence in the Word would help him accurately handle it. (2Timothy 2:15) Later he stated that inspired Scripture was needed to completely equip us for the work God calls us to do. (2Timothy 3:16-17) In his earlier letter attention to Scripture was encouraged for progress and ensuring salvation for both Timothy and his hearers. (1Timothy 4:13-16)

Every Christian needs to focus on the Word. Without such focus we will never grow and thus we will not be pleasing to God. From hearing of God to our death we must remain in the Word if we are to be with God for eternity.